enough quantity of wheat in time to different parts of the country particularly in Rajasthan and West Bengal resulting in closure of many flour mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to avoid closure of flour mills due to shortage of wheat; and

(d) whether Government also propose to privatise the handling of rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) After the delicensing of Roller Flour Mills Industry in 1986, the Central Government is not statutorily bound to supply wheat to Roller Flour Mills. They are required to meet their requirement from the open market. However, Food Corpoartion of India do sell some quantities of wheat to the Roller Flour Mills at the appropriate time as and when necessary to improve open market availability provided it has stocks over and above the requirements for the public distribution system and without jeopardising the country's food security.

(d) Handling of rice and wheat, apart from the quantities procured by FCI and public agencies is already with the private trade.

Non-punctuality in the running of 13 DN and 14 UP trains

173. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Train Nos. 13 DN and 14 UP under Western Railway are not running on time mostly;

(b) whether complaints from "PASHCHIM THANE JILLA PRAVASI MAHASANGH", Thane (Maharashtra), have been received in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken to maintain the punctuality of these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Punctuality of 13 Dn/14 Up Bombay-Valsad Passenger during July '91 was 77.5 per cent and 74.2 per cent respectively.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) Intensive monitoring is being done.

Survey conducted for conversion of Hospet-Hubli railway line from MG to BG

174. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a feasibility survey was conducted for conversion of Hospet-Hubli railway line from MG to BG;

(b) whether the same has been up-dated, recently;

(c) if so, the findings of the same alongwith the estimated cost of conversion; and

(d) whether the conversion of the line finds place in the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Survey for conversion of Miraj-Bangalore and other connected MG Branch Lines in the area including Hospet-Hubli (144 km) was carried out in 1984. On persistent demands, the survey report was updated in 1989. Conversion of Hospet-Hubli was estimated to cost Rs. 113 crores in 1989. The project was found to be financially unremunerative and could not be considered for being taken up.

(d) The projects to be taken up during 8th Plan have not yet been identified.

Setting up of Steel Plant in Karnataka

175. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the application of K.S.I.I.D.C. for a three million T.P.A. integrated steel plant at Torangallu

in Karnataka has been recommended to the Licensing Committee;

(b) whether the State Government wants to set up this plant in the Joint Sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) M/s. Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIIDC), a State Government Undertaking of the Government of Karnataka, has selected M/s. Essar Gujarat Ltd. as their Joint Sector partner for setting up of an integrated Steel Plant in Bellary District of Karnataka. The proposed capacity of the plant, at completion, is estimated to be 3 MTPA. The product mix includes flat and non flat products.

In view of the recently announced changes in the industrial policy, an industrial licence is not necessary for setting up this project by KSIIDC.

National Centre for Oil palm Research in Karnataka

176. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has represented to the Central Government for establishment of a National Centre for Oil-palm Research; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed specifications of the land required for setting up the Centre have been communicated to the Government of Karnataka for suggesting a suitable site.

Utilisation of irrigation potential

177. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap in the utilisation of irrigation potential created in the country under large medium and minor irrigation projects;

(b) if so, what is the break-up of this gap in terms of large, medium and minor irrigation and to which plan period does this gap relate to; and

(c) whether Government have prepared a time bound plan for utilisation of this potential, if so, the details of the plan and of investment likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the end of VI Plan, the gaps in utilisation of irrigation potential created through major & medium and minor schemes were 46.8 lakh hecteres and 22.7 lakh hectares respectively. At the end of VII Plan, the corresponding figures were 50.2 lakh hectares and 33.0 lakh hectares respectively.

(c) The Government is implementing the Command Area Development Programme for reducing the gap between potential created and utilised and has also taken a series of measures for improving water management practices, to bridge the gap. In addition, the States have also been asked to re-appraise the figures of potential created in order to correct over-reporting, if any.

Companies defaulting in remittance of P.F. accounts

178. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of companies defaulting in remittances to P.F. account as on 31st July, 1991: